WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An observation optical system comprising:

an objective optical part which forms an image of an object, and has a first lens unit with a negative power and a second lens unit with a positive power arranged from an object side in the order named, said second lens unit being capable of moving in a direction including a component perpendicular to an optical axis to stabilize an image;

an image inverting part which converts an image formed by said objective optical part into an erect image; and

an eyepiece optical part which guides the erect image converted by said image inverting part to an observer.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein letting Fo be a focal length of the overall objective optical part, f1 be a focal length of said first lens unit, f2 be a focal length of said second lens unit, and D12 be a distance between said first lens unit and said second lens unit, conditions defined by

$$0.1 \leqq -Fo/f1 \leqq 1.0$$

$$1.1 \leqq Fo/f2 \leqq 3.0$$

$$0.01 \leqq D12/Fo \leqq 0.2$$

are satisfied.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said second lens unit can move in the direction perpendicular to the optical axis.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein said second lens unit can swing about a point on the optical axis.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein letting Fo be a focal length of the overall objective optical part, f1 be a focal length of said first lens unit, f2 be a focal length of said second lens unit, D12 be a distance between said first lens unit and said second lens unit, and Tc be a distance from a vertex of an object-side surface of said second lens unit to a swing center (when an image direction is a positive direction), conditions defined by

$$0.1 \leqq -Fo/f1 \leqq 1.0$$

$$1.1 \leqq Fo/f2 \leqq 3.0$$

$$0.01 \leqq D12/Fo \leqq 0.2$$

$$0.1 \leqq Tc/Fo \leqq 0.7$$

are satisfied.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein said first lens unit consists of one positive lens element and one negative lens element, and said second lens unit consists of one positive

lens element.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said first lens unit has a positive lens element with a convex surface facing the object side and a negative lens element with a concave surface facing the image side which are arranged from the object side in the order named.

8. A system according to claim 6, wherein said first lens unit consists of a lens component formed by cementing the positive lens element to the negative lens element.

9. A system according to claim 6, wherein said second lens unit consists of a positive lens element having a convex surface facing the object side.

10. A system according to claim 1, wherein letting β be a magnification of said second lens unit, an antivibration sensitivity Si of said second lens unit satisfies a condition defined by

$$|Si| = |1 - \beta| > 1$$

11. An observation device comprising said observation optical system defined in claim 1.